



## **EUFORIA**

### **EDITION NO. 31**

### **OCTOBER 2009**

#### **Greetings from your Regional Director**

A few months have now passed, but I write this greeting with memories of the European Regional Conference in Oslo still fresh in my mind. From analyzing the Evaluation Forms and reading all kinds of letters from participants, I dare to say that the Conference was a success; a tribute to Barbro Sommerset and her committee. I very much enjoyed the cooperation with them. For me it was exciting to have the opportunity to meet face to face with new members and listen to how they would like to “Activate their Visions”.

Last week I attended my own chapter meeting. Six members gave their enthusiastic reports from the Regional Conference. They brought the theme “Activate your Vision” to the chapter. Their question to the members was: How can we within our chapter fulfill this intention? You can imagine my gratification, our Conference theme reaches a chapter and creates new activities. You feel the international, national and local winds. As a summary of the Conference I would like to quote Dorothy Haley: “We feel that Europe has come a long, long way in its growth and that we are a very special group within DKG International.

**Expansion into Panama:** The Executive Board has approved the Installation of a State Organisation in Panama City, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009. As a member of the 2006-2008 International Expansion committee, Jeannette Zuniga, Costa Rica, has spent three years meeting with prospective members in Panama. Currently, Jeannette has 18 members who have been briefed on the Society’s mission, purposes, benefits and responsibilities. These women educators have agreed to the commitment of membership and are prepared to establish a chapter in Panama.

**Communications Services Administrator:** As I told you in an earlier letter, Linda S. Eller began her position as CSA on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009. She will manage the operations of the Communications Services Department and distribution of Society publications. She will also work with the Society’s website and other networking efforts planned for introduction in the near future.

**My schedule so far:** The Administrative Board meeting is moved from November 2009 to January 14-16 2010. International Speakers’ Fund Committee online meeting will be in November 2009, European Forum meeting will be in Amsterdam, 6-8 November 2009. Let me know if you wish my attendance at your State meetings.

The Autumn winds are here. What kind of new steps do they bring to DKG? Can they blow away old traditional concepts and make us ready for new directions? Are you ready for that?

Best Autumn greeting to every body.

**Birgit Svensson**

#### **European Forum**

177 members and guests attended the European Forum at the Regional Conference in Oslo on Saturday. The printer had mistakenly printed a draft version of the programme (see corrected

pages attached at the end of this edition of EuForia, with updated agenda, International Standing rule 5.51 and Regional Rules).

**Brigitte Wichmann** gave an inspirational start to the proceedings. In the business meeting **Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser's** concerns about the age limit for new members were well received, as were **Dorothy Haley's** thoughts about representation on the European Forum. We also heard about the hopes for a European Website. The full minutes of the meeting will be on the GB website in due course, [www.deltakappagamma.org/GB](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/GB)

I was delighted to present **Dr Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir** with the **European Achievement Award**. This is given biennially to a member from any European State in recognition of distinguished service to the Society at the European level. Sigrún Klara was recognised as having extensive knowledge of the Society. *'She has been involved from the time she became founder of the first chapter in Iceland in 1975, and has held many positions on chapter, state, regional and international levels.*

*She is well known within the DKG Society and has served as the European Regional Director. During her biennium she visited most of the European States. This biennium she is the first European member to serve in the position of a vice president on the Administrative Board. She is the former National Librarian of Iceland, the first woman to hold that position in the country. She is always ready to do work for the Society and is a very worthy representative of the European Membership'.*

The designer had explained that the award was a design in silver, 'one woman is special and she is in gold and in the centre of the group (ruby) She is cherished and supported by the organisation of women, the other female symbols. The ruby can also be seen as the rose that symbolises the DKG society'.

Our speaker **Meeri Sild**, from Estonia, spoke about the need to be well informed and the best ways of using new technologies for strengthening and growing the organisation through networking, virtual practice communities and electronic tools. For those of us who are 'digital immigrants' i.e. for those who are not 'digital natives', Meeri made it all sound very simple and very possible.

**Diana Bell, Chair for the European Forum**

## **NORWAY**

Many of you attended Europe Regional Conference from August 5 – 8 in here in Oslo. Our Steering Committee under the leadership of Barbro Sommerset ensured its success. 270 DKG participants from 11 European countries and the USA gathered in Oslo to experience social networking, professional development and a dive into Norwegian social and cultural affairs. We were received by the Mayor of Oslo in the City Hall. The City Hall overlooks the Oslo waterfront. The waterfront was also the location for Oslo by Night as we hugely enjoyed a cruise on the Oslo fjord.

At the City Hall I was honored on behalf of DKG to give a thank you speech to the Mayor's representative Mr Myhre. In preparing for the speech it struck me that what I wanted to do was to present DKG to the Mayor of Oslo in a short, elevator speech. Several of my DKG sisters have asked to have a copy of the speech. I therefore give the speech to you in this number of EuForia. Maybe it can be of help when you present DKG.

I want to thank you Mr Myhre and the City of Oslo for this very beautiful and generous reception. You have opened the doors of the Oslo City Hall to accommodate all the

participants of the Europe Conference 2009 of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

DKG is an international society, founded in the U.S. in 1929 for key women educators. Today we have more than 106.000 members in 16 countries representing all aspects of education. Our goal is to promote professional and personal excellence in education.

By networking professionals around the world, we stimulate our professional and personal growth, not least through the effective use of various forms of digital technology.

We offer more leadership training opportunities for women educators than any other professional organization. We have excellent leadership program at the University of Texas and we have leadership programs online.

We work with the Fulbright organization to bring promising women from developing countries to universities in Canada and the U.S. Through our affiliation with the United Nations we work with Unesco and with Unicef. We have raised nearly 200.000 US dollars for teachers in Afghanistan. Last year we provided approximately three million US dollars in a world wide support of educators and of education.

By extending your kind invitation to us Mr Myhre you have at the same time recognized the value of the work done in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society.

**Mette Heiberg, State President Norway**

## **GERMANY**

In the June edition of EuForia the Norwegian president stated that they were very busy preparing the Regional Conference but still enthusiastic and the working morale high – and they really still were when we came: untiring, always friendly and helpful and steering committee chair Barbro tranquility herself.

The beautiful musical and lyric introductions to the general sessions conveyed this spirit that certainly didn't miss its effect on the audience as well as the speakers.

The titles of the workshops offered were so promising that it was hard to settle for one as it meant to renounce to the others – I wished they had been offered twice so the decision wouldn't have been so hard to make!

The European Forum Meeting was well prepared, expertly run, informative and productive – Kate York's proposal in order to get things moving by setting a deadline for people who do NOT want to be included in the European data base to object was a very good one, I think. The forum handout, too, was very well done and ever so helpful; it saved us trying to listen attentively AND at the same time scribble notes (often unrecognizable when needed) in order to inform the members at home who couldn't attend.

Though my speech on Elisabeth Mann-Borgese as German "woman of vision", as well as my "Words of Inspiration" at the opening of the European Forum may have sounded like a team effort in order to support German Forum member Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser's motion to completely waive the age limit/restriction for admittance to membership, it certainly wasn't. I hadn't had any idea of Christa's proposal when I drafted my contributions; I myself think this issue requires still a lot of consideration.

The leadership development training was very inspiring and informative and helped to form bonds amongst Europe's new State Organisation Presidents, who acted quite spontaneously as a group when thanking, at the end of the European Forum Meeting - each of us in her mother tongue - our Norwegian sisters for a wonderful conference.

If you want to learn more about this year's Regional you only have to click onto the GB website that dedicated three extra pages to a review, caught its spirit very well and expressed our thanks much better than I ever could!

Our Steering Committee 2011 is already looking forward very much to the “Handover Meeting” with the Norwegian Steering Committee in Lahr on October 16/17!

**Brigitte Wichmann**  
**German State Organisation President**  
**and Steering Committee Chair**

### **GREAT BRITAIN**

I feel very honoured to have been chosen by our members to act as GB State President for the next 2 years. Diana Bell and Kate York, who came before me, are a very difficult act to follow, each having taken us forward as well as consolidating our success.

I very much enjoyed the Leadership Development sessions in Oslo which I shared with the other new European State Presidents. We were given a large file which covered the nuts and bolts of the job – there are plenty of forms to fill in by a due date! – information about how the Society is organised, and our financial responsibilities. The session began with an inspirational DVD by Amanda Gore which challenged us, as leaders, to make people feel special, to look for the good, don't tell yourself you'll fail, or you will - and not to forget the sparkly bits! We often worked in twos, and were quietly grouped and regrouped to ensure that we worked with all the others during the two days, which was most rewarding. I have both undertaken and led a great number of training events in my time: this was good. I was, as always, impressed by the ability of my colleagues to participate in a language not their own. We had already learned during the conference that the non-US members of the organisation are only about 3% of the total membership, yet these European State Presidents are remarkable professional women who are good ambassadors for our Region.

By the final dinner, when we sat together, we had become a real European team. Sessions including `The Role of the President`, `Leading Change` and `Vision, Mission, Goals` had made us think: working with my colleagues had put the heart and soul into it for me.

Within GB state we are working to set up a new Chapter in the Cambridge area. The requirement to have at least 12 members to start is quite a challenge, but we are fairly confident that we can do it. Our existing 3 chapters are busy planning for the coming year's events: plenty of stimulating sessions to draw in teachers and others from the surrounding area, and to encourage them to become members once we have introduced ourselves to them, thereby increasing our membership. Our GB State conference in 2010 will be in Canterbury, 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> April. We are planning for 3 inspirational speakers on the main conference day on Saturday, plus a number of social events on the Friday evening and Sunday morning. Please come!

**Ellen Rosier 11.04.1914 – 16.08.2009.** Finally, I have to end this piece on a sad note by reporting the death of Ellen Rosier of Alpha chapter. Ellen was our oldest surviving charter member of Alpha chapter and a loyal one always. Those of you who attended our regional conferences in Iceland and in Strawberry Hill, London will have fond and vivid memories of her. Professionally, Ellen had a long career popular and much respected primary school Head Teacher. She also had a strong Christian faith and contributed much to the life of her parish church, organizing the annual Women's World Day of Prayer as well as organizing and leading the support for many Christian missions overseas. Above all we remember Ellen for her optimistic outlook, her sense of fun and enthusiasm for life. She will be much missed by all of us.

**Diane Billam State President**

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

The summer is over and it is with great pleasure that I think back to the successful European Conference in Oslo. It was a good experience meeting old friends, new friends, nice people and inspiring people. The program was what we need in such a European setting, a variety of workshops and good lectures. The members from the Netherlands who attended the conference enjoyed the program very much. It was a good mixture between listening and more active participation.

The committee for leadership development did a good job by transforming the existing manual into a book that fits perfectly for the tasks of the new State-boards. In addition to the usual points about aspects of leadership, there is a paragraph entitled: Lighting the Way. We can use this helpful information: beginning with the end in mind is a good motivation. The acquaintance with the state presidents 2009 – 2011 was fun. I hope we will be in regular contact.

The introduction to the Norwegians and their culture was surprising to me. Compared with Amsterdam Oslo is very clean, the people are relaxed and friendly. I was also struck by the visible remnants of the past, especially those that could be seen in the Viking Museum. Unfortunately I could not read the runes.

The new Biennium started and we made our policy. The spearheads are, you will not be surprised, improved communication on various levels and attracting new members.

One of the communication instruments is the European website. European cooperation is very important for us. Digital contact is easy and inspiring. It brings together members from different countries and the international character is one of the extras of our association. It is an aspect we will focus on more by trying to attract new members.

One of our last year's spearheads was reorganising our state archive. The job has been done and we now have all of our paper communication from the period 1977 to 2007 systematically stored in boxes. It will be kept at a national institute for women: The Aletta, Institute for Womens History (formerly IIAV) [info@aletta.nu](mailto:info@aletta.nu) in Amsterdam. It is the ideal place for information on women organizations and archives. A place where you can find answers to all kinds of questions about women from the past, present and future. During the training in Oslo we talked about archiving and at the request of the state presidents, the Dutch text will be translated into English and sent to them. Of course every country has its own rules, but this can be helpful. We wish you all an enjoyable, inspiring and fruitful year.

**Riet Smits, state president 2009 - 2011**

## **Gender and Equality**

Barbro Sommerset asked me to forward to you the power point notes from Arni Hole's speech to conference on gender and equality issues. I think you will find them interesting reading and I have sent them as separate attachments.

**Joan Carroll**

Thank you for all your contributions. The deadline for contributions to the Spring edition of EuForia is 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

**Joan Carroll, Editor**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE V - ORGANIZATION**

#### **Section D. International Organization**

4. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International shall have forums as designated in the *International Standing Rules*. The plan for each forum shall be determined by its participants. These forum units serve the interests of members, insofar as they reflect the Purposes of the Society.

## **INTERNATIONAL STANDING RULES**

### **5. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

#### **5.5 Forums**

- 5.51 Annual planning meeting costs and communication expenses for the Canadian, European, Latin American and United States Forums shall be funded in the Available Fund budget. The Canadian, European and Latin American Forums shall be funded at U.S. \$3,000 per year. The United States Forum shall be funded at U.S. \$12,000 per year. Annual Budgets and accounting reports of funds shall be submitted to the Business Services Administrator.
- 5.52 The funds shall be used to communicate with state organisations and members in the forum unit and to allow each forum unit to have meetings of representative groups for the purpose of planning and may be used to take action on educational activities that are of concern to the forum unit.
- 5.53 The chairmen of forums shall be members other than elected officers of the International Society and shall be selected by members of each forum by a method they determine.

## **REGIONAL RULES**

### **Ratified at the European Regional Conference in 2003**

#### **The Rationale**

The European Forum aims to fulfil the Purposes of the Society as outlined in the CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE V, Section D4) relevant to a specific European context and setting (in particular ARTICLE II, Section A. Purposes 2, 6, & 7).

#### **The Purpose**

- To unite the European members, and celebrate their diversity.
- To give opportunities to discuss, in an open situation, issues of educational importance.

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#### **Regional Rules continued**

#### **The Structure**

- The committee consists of one representative from each of the member countries. If the representative is neither the state organisation president nor a member of the state organisation executive board, she shall be an ex-officio member of the state organisation executive board. Any representative is encouraged to assume the role of the chair of the committee if required.
- The Europe Regional Director shall be an ex-officio member of the European Forum Committee.
- The Forum Committee shall serve for the period of one biennium.

- Names of each country's representatives shall be submitted to the outgoing chairman of the European Forum by March 1 of the even-numbered years.
- The current chairman shall then circulate the names of the new representatives to all state organisation presidents, members of The Forum, and elected incoming members.
- The chairman of the European Forum shall be elected within the committee.
- The incoming members of the committee shall elect the chairman from the candidates sent in by May 1 of even-numbered years and send the names to the present chairman of the European Forum Committee.

#### **The Finance**

- As outlined in the INTERNATIONAL STANDING RULES, 5.51, the Forum shall be funded at no less than \$3,000 per year.
- A budget in written form shall be produced for these funds, and approved by the Forum Committee.
- Each European Forum Committee is permitted to set up its own budget.

#### **The Accountability**

- Each representative is accountable to and shall report regularly to their state organisation president and members.
- There shall be a biennial review of the Forum meetings by the Forum Committee based on an evaluation from participants. A statement of accounts shall be presented at the International Convention Forum Meeting.

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Age limit for new members: C Dunker-Hopferwieser (Germany) 10 min

European Forum Representation: D Haley (Great Britain) 8 min

European Data Base: K York (Great Britain) 5 min

European Achievement Award presentation

Other business

Close of business meeting

**Lecture Introduction:** Anu Joon (Estonia)

**Speaker:** Meeri Sild (Estonia)

***Collaborate, share, create – in the new way***

*'In today's rapidly changing world the need to be informed and quick information exchange is vital. The presentation focuses on ways to make the best use of new technologies for strengthening and growing the organisation through networking, virtual practice communities and electronic tools.'*

**Meeting to close 10.30**

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